

Pantoum

A form of French poetry in which the lines are grouped into quatrains (stanzas with four lines).

Quatrains

- There is no set amount for the number of quatrains. You can have as few or as many as you want or need.
- The first and the last line of the poem are exactly the same (your poem will begin and end with the same line).
- The third line of your first quatrain is the second line of your last quatrain.
- The second and fourth lines of each quatrain are repeated as the first and third lines of the following quatrain.

Line Repeat Pattern

1
2
1
2

2
3
2
3

3
4
3
4

Stillbirth by Laure-Anne Bosselaar

On a platform, I heard someone call out your name:

No, Laetitia, no.

It wasn't my train—the doors were closing,
but I rushed in, searching for your face.

But no Laetitia. No.

No one in that car could have been you,
but I rushed in, searching for your face:
no longer an infant. A woman now, blond, thirty-two.

No one in that car could have been you.
Laetitia-Marie was the name I had chosen.
No longer an infant. A woman now, blond, thirty-two:
I sometimes go months without remembering you.

Laetitia-Marie was the name I had chosen:
I was told not to look. Not to get attached—
I sometimes go months without remembering you.
Some griefs bless us that way, not asking much space.

I was told not to look. Not to get attached.
It wasn't my train—the doors were closing.
Some griefs bless us that way, not asking much space.
On a platform, I heard someone calling your name.

Miss Charlotte Brown, Librarian, Goes Mad by Felix Jung

Today, I have decided
to read every poem ever written
in the short history of our civilization.
I know it is a selfish thing

to read. Every poem ever written
has its good intentions. I know,
I know, it is a selfish thing.
I want to believe that. Poetry

has its good intentions. I know
reading poems can't help much.
I want to believe that poetry
books have the answer. I'll start

reading. Poems can't help much
in the short history of our civilization.
Books have the answer. I'll start
today. I have decided.